

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for his courtesy and consideration in discussing this Application in a telephone interview on September 8, 2006. As interviews after final are discretionary, Applicants particularly appreciate the opportunity. Applicants note with appreciation that in the Office Action dated July 11, 2006 ("Office Action"), claims 28-31 and 34-35 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the interview, the claims in their presently amended form were discussed. The Examiner specifically agreed that the claims in their presently amended form were allowable. The amendments above reflect this agreement.

Amendments: Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants again note with appreciation that the Office Action states that claims 28-31 and 34-35 are allowable. All claims are, therefore, now believed to be in condition for allowance, as the above amendments largely rewrite certain of these claims in independent form.

Before this Amendment, claims 1-36 were pending in the application. While claims 1-27, 32, 33, and 36 were rejected, claims 28-31 and 34-35 were deemed to be allowable. The limitations from allowable claims 28, 31, and 34 are incorporated into independent claims from which they depend. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 14-16, 24, 29, 30, 31 and 35 are amended, while claims 2, 21-23, 28, 34, and 36 are canceled. Claims 37-57 have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-20, 24-27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, and 37-57 are now pending. Claims 1, 24, and 31 are the independent claims.

Specifically, the limitations from allowable claim 28 and claim 2, from which it depends, are incorporated into independent claim 1.

Allowable claim 31 also depends from claim 2. Therefore, the limitations from claims 1 and 2 are incorporated into allowable claim 31, turning allowable dependent claim 31 into independent claim 31. Claims 37-57 depend from claim 31, and comprise the limitations from 21 remaining dependent claims of claim 1.

The limitations from claim 34 are incorporated into independent claim 24, from which it depends.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 8, 2006

/Michael L. Drapkin/
Michael L. Drapkin
Reg. No. 55,127

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
MTS:cmb
60860630 v1